

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:01 p.m. on Thursday, September 20, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Hoffman*, Rizzardi, See, Warner, White, and Chairperson Lew.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden,
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich,
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright, and
Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina.

*Commissioner Hoffman arrived at 7:17 p.m.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Deemer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner White moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES FROM AUGUST 16, 2007

Commissioner White offered the following clarification to the August 16, 2007 meeting minutes:

Page 5, Item 12C, line 2: "...the topic of banning bottled water purchased by the City."

MOTION: Commissioner Warner moved for the approval of the August 16, 2007 Water Commission meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner See seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

None.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH GOAL (PHG) REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the material of record and noted that the Public Health Goal (PHG) Report, mandated by California Department of Health Services, is required to be presented at a public meeting and that notification was placed in the Daily Breeze. He welcomed Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina who reported on the purpose, goals, and outcome of the PHG Report.

Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina provided an overview of the Public Health Goals (PHG) Report that covers the three-year period from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006. He defined PHG as a level of certain constituents in drinking water that has no known health risk if consumed over a lifetime. He reported on characteristics of the PHG, noting that it applies to California only and is established as an “ideal goal” to achieve. He discussed requirements for PHG compliance that apply to water agencies with 10,000 or more services and having a constituent above PHG during a three-year period.

He reported that Torrance Municipal Water exceeded the PHG for two constituents during this reporting period—one weekly sampling period for total coliform bacteria and one sampling round for at-the-tap monitoring for lead and copper.

Referring to the coliform bacteria monitoring, Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina stated that 27 samples were collected per week and that there was one occurrence of a positive sample. He noted that the probable cause was error in sampling procedures or “false positive” as all re-samples tested negative.

He stated that the probable cause of the detected lead was corrosion/leaching from household faucets and plumbing as there were non-detectable or trace amounts found in the public distribution system. He explained that the purpose of the sampling was to determine how aggressive the water is to lead and copper fixtures. He explained that a minimum of 50 volunteer residents collect “first draw” samples and discussed the criteria that they are required to meet.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that Torrance Municipal Water has a zero lead distribution system including meters but that almost all plumbing fixtures purchased today have a lead content in the brass.

Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina noted that Torrance luckily provides hard water that puts a film on the inside of the metal that prevents leaching. He stated that the lead and copper rule was beneficial because lead is one of the most dangerous contaminants for children. He discussed mitigation measures that include advising customers to flush new fixtures, monitoring water quality parameters that relate to corrosivity, and adding inhibitors to reduce corrosivity.

He concluded his presentation by stating that Torrance Municipal Water meets all Federal and State drinking water requirements, that test results for total coliform is well below drinking water standards, that lead sample results at tap are above PHG due to customer fixtures, and that the next lead and copper sampling will be in mid to late 2008.

MOTION: Commissioner White moved to accept as presented the Public Health Goal Report. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that the water quality budget is \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year.

8B. WATER COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL 2006-07

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich summarized the Annual Report for the 12 month period from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 and requested that Commissioners review it and make any required revisions.

Commissioner Hoffman requested that the section regarding Water Commission Purview be amended to reflect that the committee met with Mayor Scotto.

MOTION: Commissioner Warner moved to approve the Water Commission Annual Report for July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 as amended and to forward it to City Council for acceptance. Commissioner White seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that the Water Master provided its end of the water year report and that the West Coast Basin pumped only 34,700 of 77,000 acre feet of allowable extractions due to mechanical and water quality issues.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry regarding the natural replenishment rate, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that it was 45,000 to 50,000 acre feet if there was not overpumping.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that West Basin Municipal Water District and Central Basin Municipal Water District have reached an agreement on their dissolution. Metropolitan Water District reported that the State Water Project was temporarily shut down and a final decision would be made at the end of the year. He stated that MWD was instructing agencies to implement conservation measures and increase use of recycled water.

He reported that Water Resplenishment District (WRD) has started up discussions regarding conjunctive use again and they are asking refineries to use more recycled water. They also discussed the replenishment assessment working group that is asking WRD to run models of the Basin, noting that there was a three foot rise in the groundwater level over the past year.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported a 4% increase in potable water production but a decrease in recycled water use due to redevelopment work at Exxon-Mobil. He stated that the City was part of the discussions with refineries to explore additional opportunities for converting more refinery water use to recycled supplies. He reported six water main breaks in July 2007 and briefly discussed the Metropolitan Water District trip to Diamond Valley Lake.

MOTION: Commissioner Hoffman moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report. Commissioner See seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden provided an update on the status of the Walteria and Ben Haggot reservoirs.

11. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright thanked Commissioners for attending the water trip to Diamond Valley Lake.

He provided background on water storage in the Colorado River watershed and State Water Project. He reported that Governor Schwarzenegger has submitted a \$9 billion new bond proposal, \$5.6 billion of which is for above and below groundwater storage. He stated that while storage is important for the future of California, a Delta fix addressing both ecosystem and conveyance is critical for Southern California. He noted that an isolated facility is not mentioned in the bond proposal. He discussed rationing and other options in the case of a water shortage.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich added that they would like to amend the Governor's bill to include more funding for local projects.

12. ORALS

12A. Chairperson Lew thanked MWD Director Wright for organizing the water trip.

12B. Chairperson Lew recommended that the City implement mandatory and not voluntary rationing and to accelerate the program to install new groundwater wells.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that it would take a minimum of two to three years to install groundwater wells and get them operational.

12C. In response to Chairperson Lew's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that WRD is looking into the possibility of expanding the desalination plant.

12D. Commissioner White discussed a change of Planning Commission rules.

12E. Commissioner Warner requested an excused absence for the October 18, 2007 Commission meeting.

12F. Commissioner See stated that he enjoyed going on the water trip.

12G. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden informed the Commission that City Council approved the notification plan for fluoridation.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:25 p.m., Commissioner Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting to October 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Rizzardi seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Lew so ordered.

Approved as Submitted November 15, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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